

Story #629 (1977, Tape #21)

Narrator: Mustafa Düzgün

Location: Narrator from Osmaniye,
kaza town of Adana
Province, tale taped at
Elazığ

Date: April 27, 1977

#629 Daughter -- youngest
The Clever Youngest Daughter *Sister -- youngest*
#629

This is the way I heard the tale from my mother. This is the way it starts.

There were two *two* brothers in a rural province. They both were married, and both of them were very rich. One had seven sons *sons -- seven* after he was married; the other one had seven daughters *brother -- seven*. When the boys were of marrying age, the father of the sons wanted to wed his *daughters -- seven* *sisters -- seven* sons with his brother's daughters so that they could all remain within the same family.

t

#629 son
7 of 8

reached his ears. His wife and daughters were equally vexed to have been maligned by a member of their own family. The father of the daughters went to see his brother and said, "Let us send your youngest son and my youngest daughter far away to seek their fortunes. In seven years they will return, and we will see which one has done better for himself. Then we can judge who is the child of a bitch."

offspring -- youngest

So the two youngest offspring went off to faraway lands to seek their fortunes. The youngest son, after considerable travel,

Story #629

stopped at a village. He inquired what the main source of business in that village was. He was told that the men went turtle hunting and got five kurus per day for turtles. So he decided to stay in that village and go turtle hunting with the men. The girl traveled farther on until she came to a village which was ruled by a very wealthy ağa. Before she arrived there, the girl had totally changed her appearance. She had shed her feminine clothes and dressed as a boy, complete with shaved head and all.

Disguise -- girl makes up as boy

She got herself hired as a shepherd. The owners of the herd, with whom she lived, consisted of a mother and her only son. hired her for five years for 500 Turkish liras for each year. she demanded the payment in advance and got it.

The son of the house was enchanted by the beauty of her eyes, but she carried out her act so well that there was no basis for questioning her identity. Before her first year was completed, the young man of the household was positive that the shepherd was a girl, and so he asked his mother how he could prove this. His mother told him to have the gardeners cut all the roses in the garden and to have the roses laid out like a carpet in the garden. Then she told him that he should sit on the carpet of freshly cut roses with the shepherd. Whoever wilted the roses faster would definitely be a girl.

Sex identity -- test to determine

The boy followed his mother's advice and had the roses in the garden cut. Then he called the shepherd. They both lay on the

Story #629

carpet of roses, but the boy fell asleep, and the girl quickly changed the roses she had lain on, and also added fresh green leaves. So the boy of the house still had no proof that the shepherd was a girl.

This time his mother told him to take her to the bazaar and to the goldsmiths, for no girl could resist the sight of so much gold, and she would surely give herself away.

So he took her to the market and went straight to where the goldsmiths sold their ware. The girl looked about and said, "Let us get out of here; we're men. Let us go, and let us have a suit-- of clothes made for ourselves." Then she led the boy of the household to the tailor and ordered a suit of red for herself and of purple for him.

When her time was up, the boy walked with her to the edge of the village, where a river ran. The girl crossed the river and then shouted,

"A red suit for me, a purple for you.

Let me return to Torluk Beyoğlu.

As a maiden I came,

And I return the same."

The girl thus returned to her native village and so did the son--youngest youngest son of her uncle. He brought along 300 to 400 turtles with him. For her part, the girl came back with ^{forty mules} 40 mules, all loaded with gold and jewels. At the sight of the girl, everyone,

including her uncle, went to congratulate her father on his daughter's success. The uncle apologized for his previous insult.

Meanwhile, the boy of the household where the youngest daughter had been hired as shepherd went to his mother and told her that at the very end she had revealed herself to be a girl. The mother asked him if he had learned the name of her hometown before she had departed. The boy replied that indeed he had. Then his mother told him to go get a barrow and load it with all kinds of feminine trinkets. So the boy went to the girl's village pretending to be a trinket vendor. From one of the houses seven girls poured out and surrounded the trinket vendor. When the boy saw the youngest, he left the barrow and all the goods and fled. A day later his mother sent to ask formally for the youngest daughter's hand in marriage, and her family accepted.

The youngest daughter, remembering that she had outsmarted the boy during the five years she had stayed with them, asked her father to prepare a skin sack full of pekmez¹ for her hope chest. On their wedding night she dressed the sack in her wedding gown, tied a rope to its neck, and hid herself in the hope chest, using a peephole to watch through.

The groom entered the room and in the dark mistook the dressed sack for the girl. He took his dagger and asked her if she had deceived him all those five years. The girl jerked the rope, and

¹Pekmez is a thick, sweet syrup made by boiling down grape juice. Among villagers it is an inexpensive sweetener and confection.

the sack nodded, "Yes." The boy struck the bride with the dagger. When he saw the liquid gushing out, he cried out and drank the pekmez. Then he shouted, "Even your blood is sweeter than anything else in the world," and he tried to kill himself. But the girl jumped out of the chest preventing him from doing so, and they lived happily ever after. It is hoped that the listeners, too, will live happily ever after.